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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Carson Introduces "Tar Creek Restoration Act"
Bill Would Call For Voluntary Buy-Out Of Residents***

Washington, D.C. --

Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) officially introduced H.R. 2116, "The Tar Creek Restoration Act", today in the United States House of Representatives. The legislation would direct the Environmental Protection Agency to begin a voluntary buy-out of the residents of Picher and Cardin – those living in the highly impacted areas of contamination.

"Relocating the residents of Picher and Cardin is the only way we can immediately guarantee their health and safety," said Congressman Carson. "The introduction of this legislation is a major step in the very long history of Tar Creek. A voluntary buy-out is what the people of Picher and Cardin want and it is what science demands as a comprehensive solution."

H.R. 2116 calls for EPA to be the lead agency in the relocation effort following the guidelines set forth by the "Uniform Relocation Act of 1970". The 17 square mile area identified in Governor Frank Keating's Tar Creek Superfund Task Force Final Report of October 2000. The legislation also goes on to state, "(EPA) shall work with other appropriate Federal and State officials to seek a comprehensive resolution to the environmental and health problems related to the Tar Creek Superfund site.

"This is not a partisan issue, this is a people issue. For far too long the people of Tar Creek have been ignored and neglected. Today is the day to make a commitment to them that their elected leaders will not allow another twenty years to pass without action," said Congressman Carson.

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